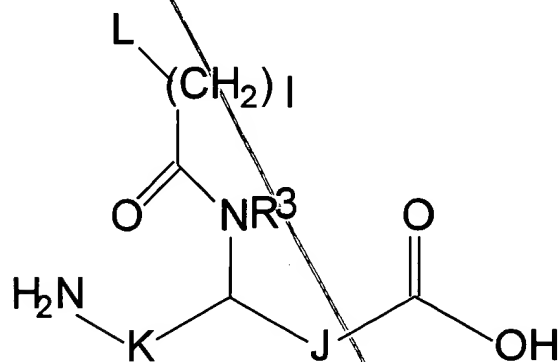
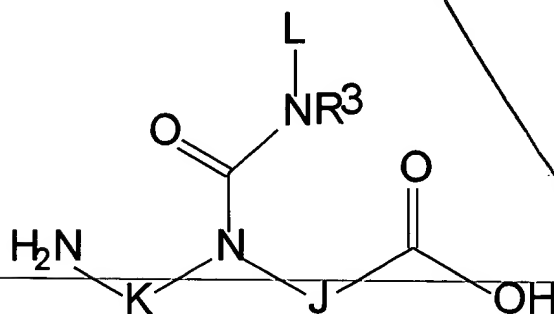


or formula:



or formula:



H3

wherein:

L is $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

K is $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

J is $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 are independently hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio- substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

l is an integer from 1 to 5; and

at least one of L and R3 comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbo-

H3
Coul

hydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

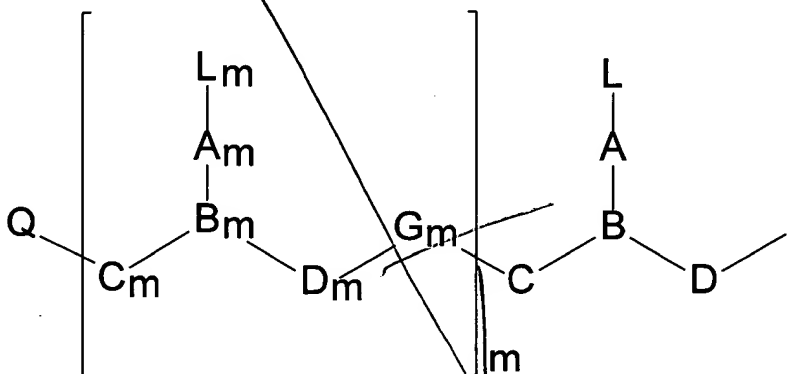
wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety.

H4

33. I (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of claim 30 wherein $[R^{13}$ is a conjugate] a is 1.

H5

37. (Twice Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of the formula:



wherein:

m is an integer from 1 to about 50;

L and L_m independently are $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$ wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate;

provided that at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

C and C_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 , SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

wherein R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

D and D_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, wherein the sum $y + z$ is greater than 2 but not more than 10;

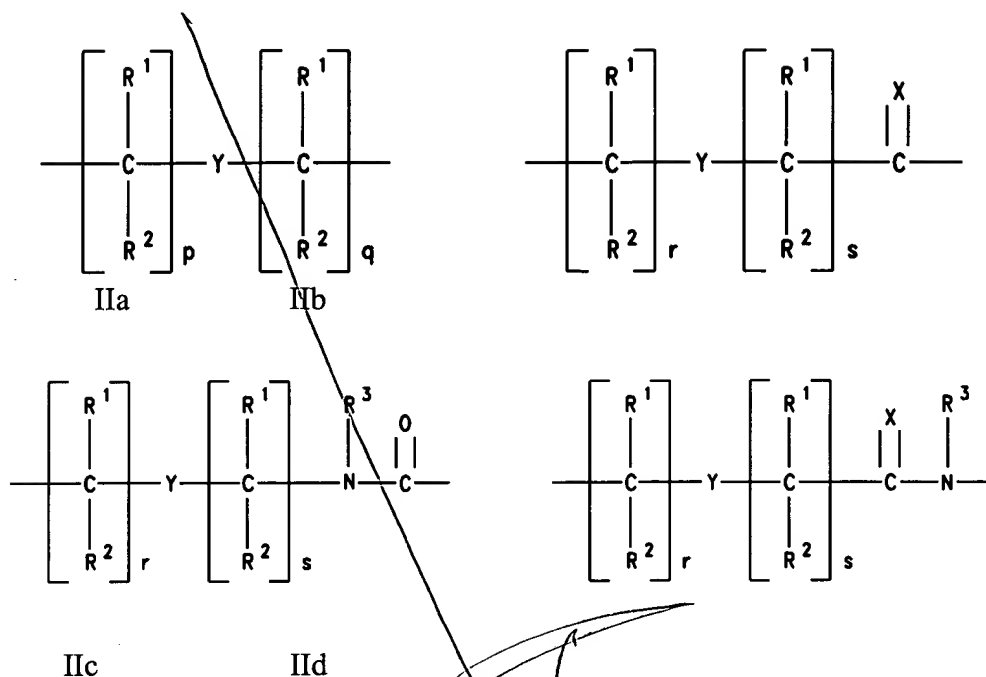
G_m is independently $-NR^3CO-$, $-NR^3CS-$, $-NR^3SO-$, or $-NR^3SO_2-$ in either orientation;

each pair of A- A_m and B- B_m are selected such that:

(a) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B or B_m is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A or A_m is a group of formula (IId) and B or B_m is

CH;



wherein:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each of r and s is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, hydroxy-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, alkoxy-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, alkylthio-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

I is $-\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ or $-\text{NR}^{10}\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{11}$; wherein:

R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} independently are hydrogen, alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter ligand, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, an oligonucleoside, a soluble polymer, a non-soluble polymer or a conjugate;

Q is $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^9$, $-\text{CONR}^8\text{R}^9$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$ or an activated

derivative of $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ or $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$; and

wherein:

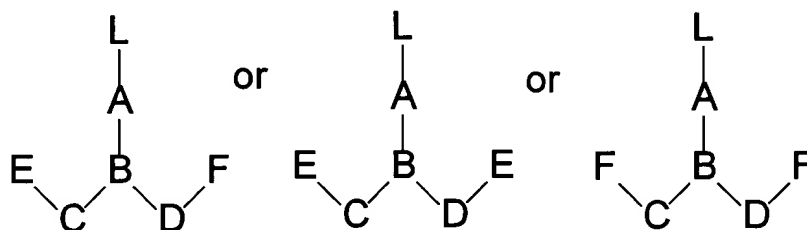
at least one of Q and I comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A, A_m , L, and L_m comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein when said Q or I is a crosslinking agent, said crosslinking agent is not lysine.

38. (Twice Amended) A compound having one of the following formulas:



wherein:

L is $\text{R}^{12}(\text{R}^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA

HS
cancel

N.E.
CLAIM
CANCELLED

intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

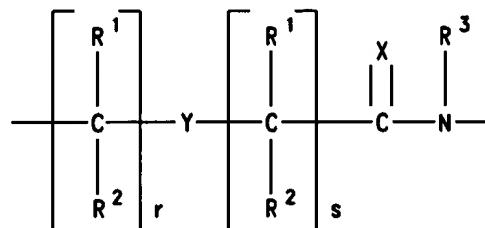
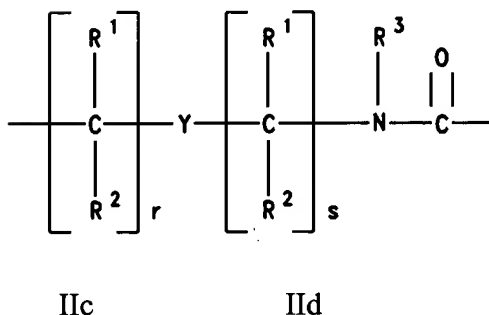
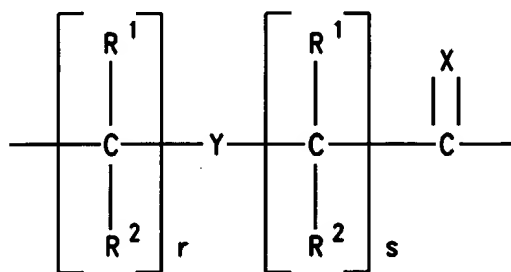
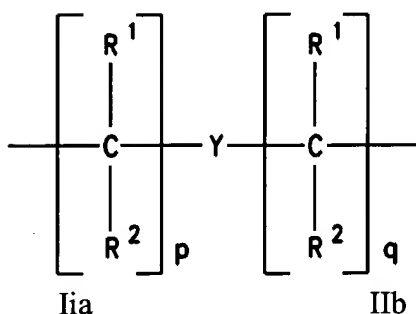
R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



where:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $C(CH_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R¹ and R² independently are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is (CR⁶R⁷)_y;

D is (CR⁶R⁷)_z; wherein:

R⁶ and R⁷ independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C₂-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, a conjugate, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵ or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

E independently is COOH, CSOH, SOOH, SO₂OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;

F independently is NHR³ or NPgR³, where Pg is an amino protecting group;

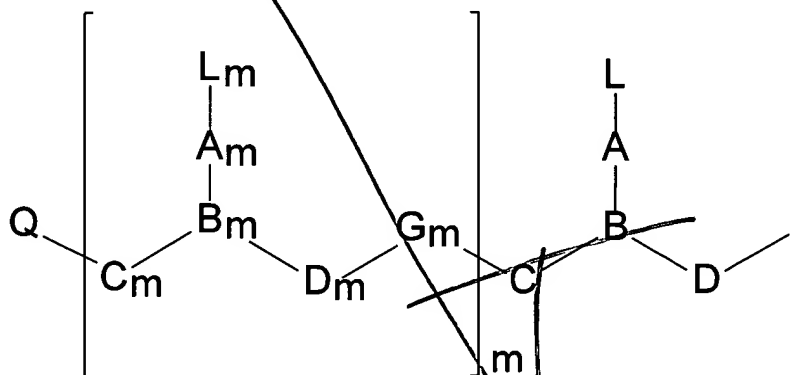
or

F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

~~at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate~~
selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a

steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety.

39. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of the formula:



wherein:

m is an integer from 1 to about 50;

L and L_m independently are R¹² (R¹³)_a wherein:

R¹² is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C₁-C₄)alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate;

provided that at least one of R¹² is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring

nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

C and C_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 , SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

wherein R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

D and D_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, wherein the sum $y + z$ is greater than 2 but not more than 10;

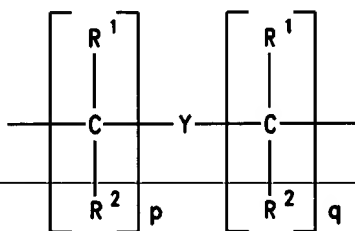
G_m is independently $-NR^3CO-$, $-NR^3CS-$, $-NR^3SO-$, or $-NR^3SO_2-$ in either orientation;

each pair of $A-A_m$ and $B-B_m$ are selected such that:

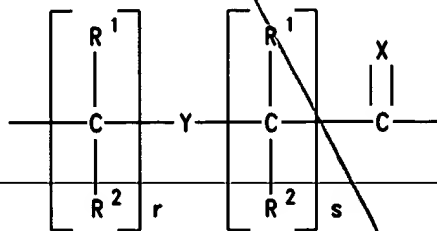
(a) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B or B_m is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIId) and B or B_m is

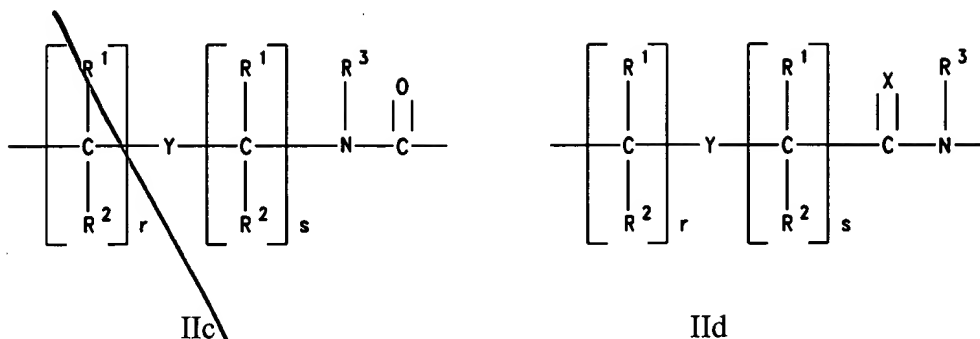
CH;



IIa



IIb



wherein:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $C(CH_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each of r and s is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

I is $-NR^8R^9$ or $-NR^{10}C(O)R^{11}$; wherein:

R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} independently are hydrogen, alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter ligand, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, an oligonucleoside, a soluble polymer, a non-soluble polymer or a conjugate;

Q is $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2R^8$, $-CO_2R^9$, $-CONR^8R^9$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2NR^{10}R^{11}$ or an activated derivative of $-CO_2H$ or $-SO_3H$; and

wherein:

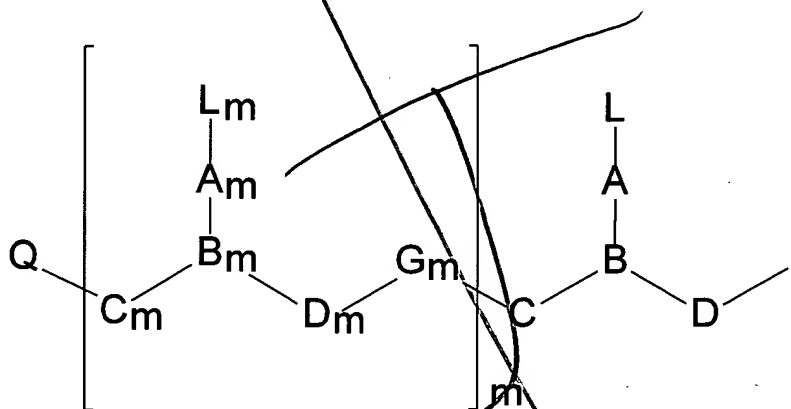
at least one of Q and I comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A, A_m, L, and L_m comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein at least one of R¹, R² or R³ is a conjugate.

40. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of the formula:



wherein:

m is an integer from 1 to about 50;

L and L_m independently are R¹²(R¹³)_a wherein:

R¹² is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C₁-C₄)alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate;

provided that at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

C and C_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 , SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

wherein R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

D and D_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, wherein the sum $y + z$ is greater than 2 but not more than 10;

G_m is independently $-NR^3CO-$, $-NR^3CS-$, $-NR^3SO-$, or $-NR^3SO_2-$ in either orientation;

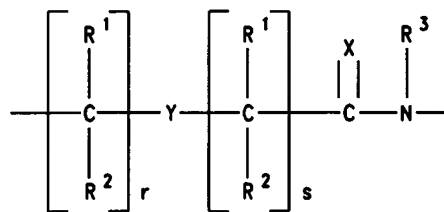
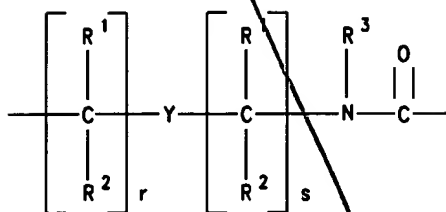
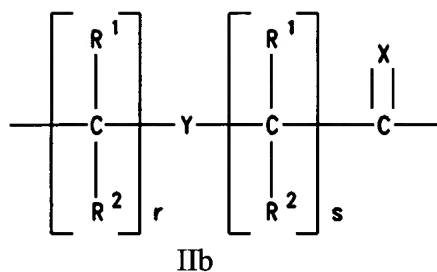
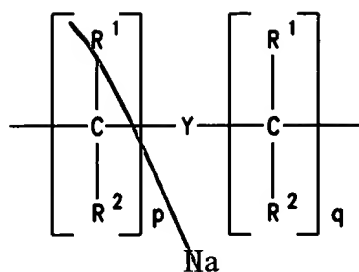
each pair of $A-A_m$ and $B-B_m$ are selected such that:

(a) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B or B_m is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIId) and B or B_m is

CH;

H6



wherein:

X is O, S, Se, NR³, CH₂ or C(CH₃)₂;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR⁴;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each of r and s is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R¹ and R² independently are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

I is -NR⁸R⁹ or -NR¹⁰C(O)R¹¹; wherein:

R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently are hydrogen, alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter ligand, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, an oligonucleoside, a soluble polymer, a non-soluble polymer or a conjugate;

Q is -CO₂H, -CO₂R⁸, -CO₂R⁹, -CONR⁸R⁹, -SO₃H, -SO₂NR¹⁰R¹¹ or an activated derivative of -CO₂H or -SO₃H; and

~~wherein:~~

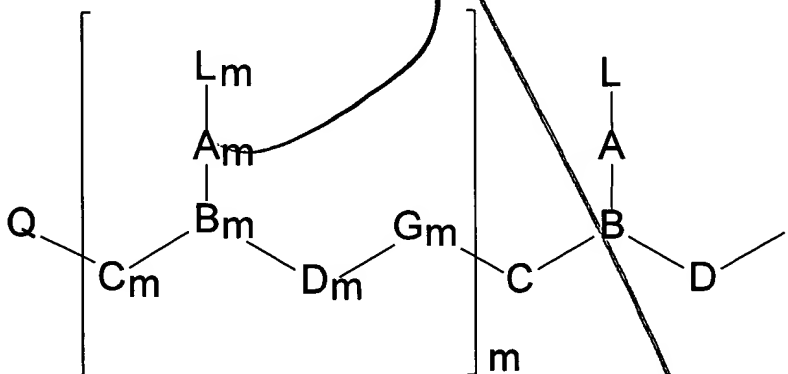
at least one of Q and I comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A, A_m, L, and L_m comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein at least one of R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} is a conjugate.

41. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of the formula:



wherein:

m is an integer from 1 to about 50;

~~L and L_m independently are R¹²(R¹³)_a wherein:~~

He

R^{11} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate;

provided that at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and
 a is 0 or 1;

C and C_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 , SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

wherein R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl; and

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

D and D_m independently are $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

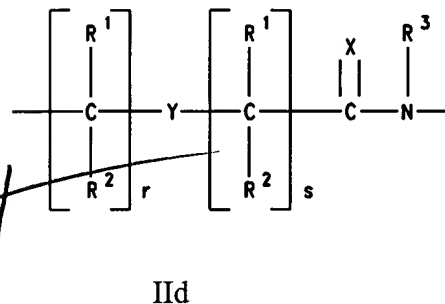
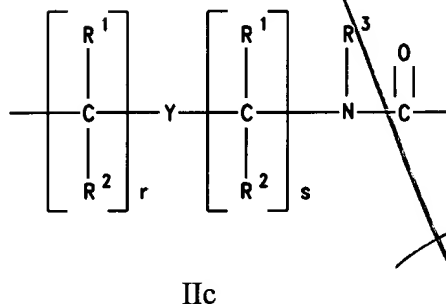
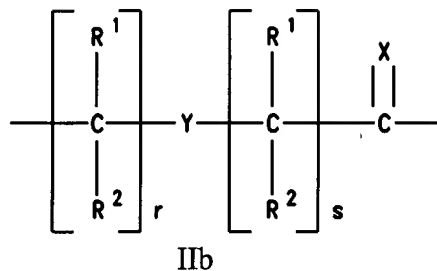
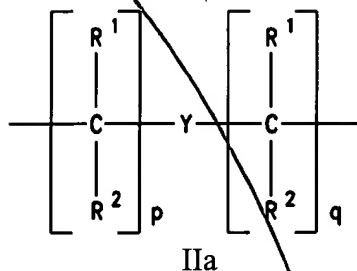
each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, wherein the sum $y + z$ is greater than 2 but not more than 10;

G_m is independently $-NR^3CO-$, $-NR^3CS-$, $-NR^3SO-$, or $-NR^3SO_2-$ in either orientation;

each pair of $A-A_m$ and $B-B_m$ are selected such that:

(a) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B or B_m is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A or A_m is a group of formula (IIId) and B or B_m is CH;



wherein:

X is O, S, Se, NR³, CH₂ or C(CH₃)₂;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR⁴;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each of r and s is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R¹ and R² independently are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

I is -NR⁸R⁹ or -NR¹⁰C(O)R¹¹; wherein:

R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently are hydrogen, alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter ligand, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, an oligonucleoside, a soluble polymer, a non-soluble polymer or a conjugate;

Q is $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^9$, $-\text{CONR}^8\text{R}^9$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$ or an activated derivative of $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ or $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$; and

wherein:

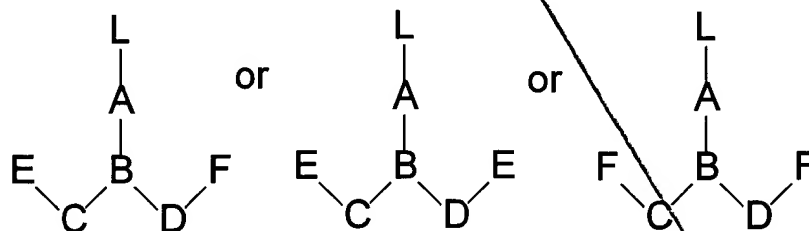
at least one of Q and I comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A, A_m , L, and L_m comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein at least one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 is a conjugate.

42. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of formula:



wherein:

L is $\text{R}^{12}(\text{R}^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally

occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

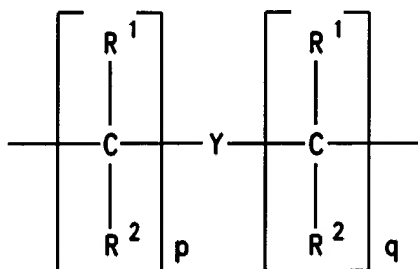
R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

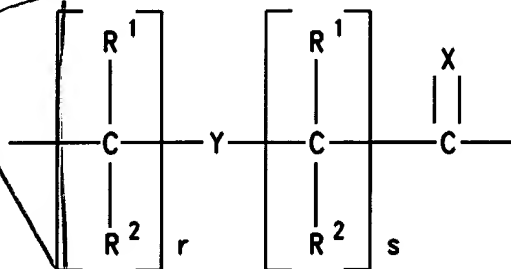
A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

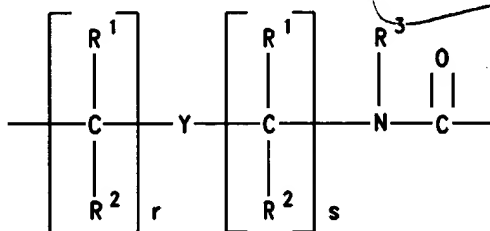
(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



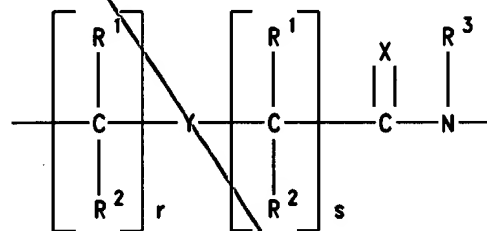
IIa



IIb



IIc



IIId

where:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $C(CH_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R¹ and R² independently are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is (CR⁶R⁷)_y;

D is (CR⁶R⁷)_z; wherein:

R⁶ and R⁷ independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C₂-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, a conjugate, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵ or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

E independently is COOH, CSOH, SOOH, SO₂OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;

F independently is NHR³ or NPgR³, where Pg is an amino protecting group; or

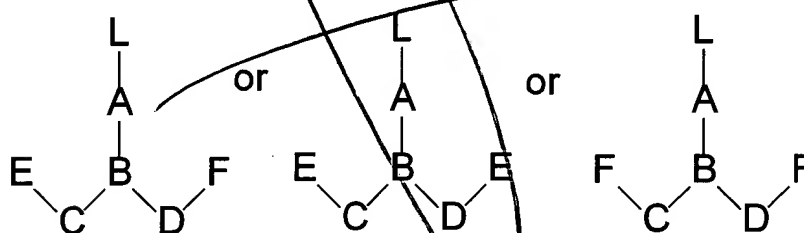
F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a

44

protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and wherein at least one group R^3 is a conjugate.

43. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of formula:



wherein:

L is $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

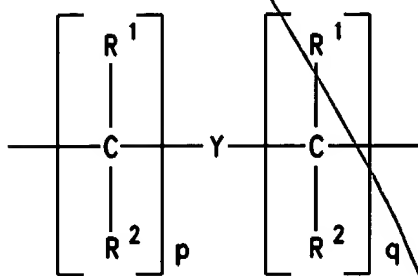
R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

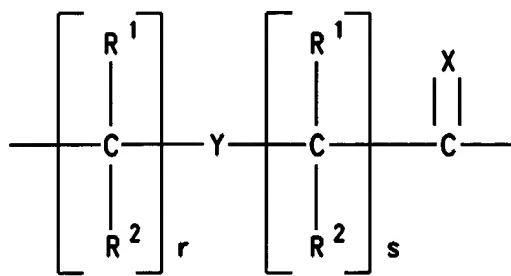
A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

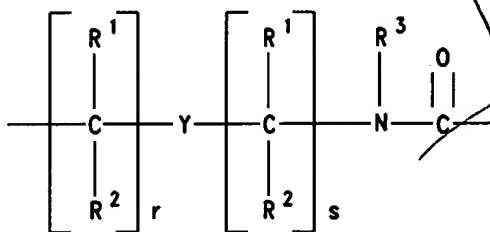
(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



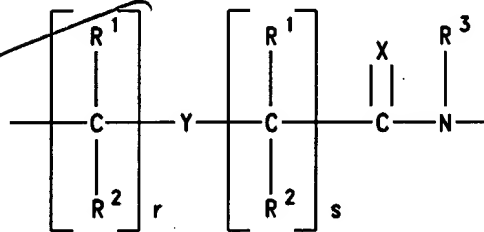
IIa



IIb



IIc



IIId

where:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $C(CH_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

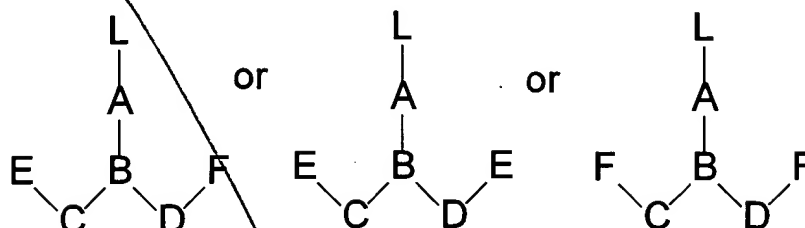
C is $(CR^6R^7)_y$;

D is $(CR^6R^7)_z$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6)

alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆) alkoxy, (C₁-C₆) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵ or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;
R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and
R⁵ is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;
each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;
E independently is COOH, CSOH, SOOH, SO₂OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;
F independently is NHR³ or NPgR³, where Pg is an amino protecting group; or
F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or
at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and
wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and
wherein at least one of said groups A or said groups B include a conjugate.

44 (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of formula:



wherein:

L is $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$; wherein:

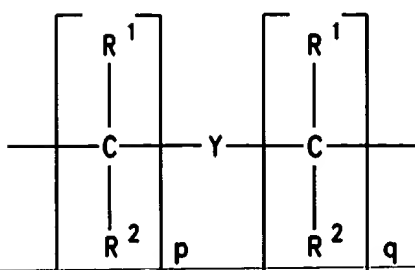
R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and
a is 0 or 1;

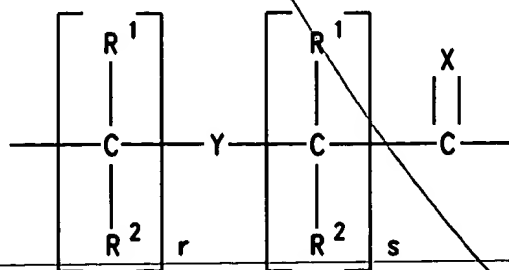
A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

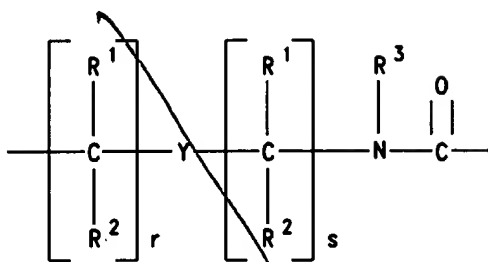
(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



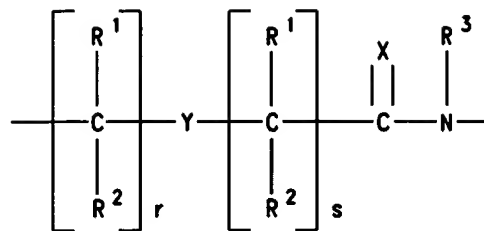
IIa



IIb



IIc



IIId

where:

X is O, S, Se, NR³, CH₂ or C(CH₃)₂;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR⁴;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R¹ and R² independently are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is (CR⁶R⁷)_y;

D is (CR⁶R⁷)_z; wherein:

R⁶ and R⁷ independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C₂-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, a conjugate, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵ or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

E independently is COOH, CSOH, SOOH, SO₂OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;

F independently is NHR³ or NPgR³, where Pg is an amino protecting group; or

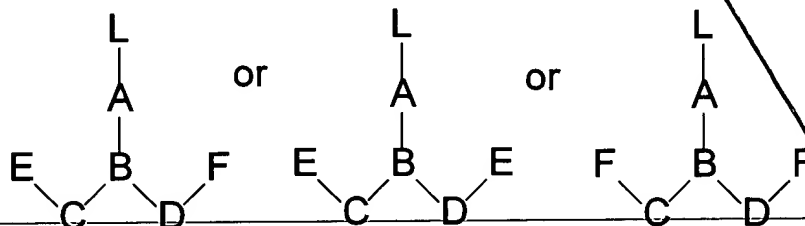
F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein at least one of group R¹ or group R² is a conjugate.

45. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of formula:



wherein:

L is $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$; wherein:

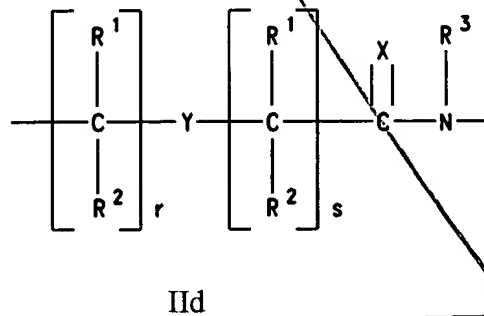
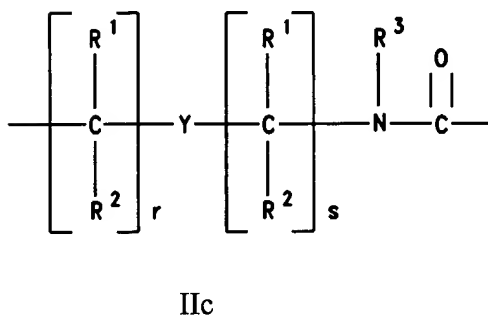
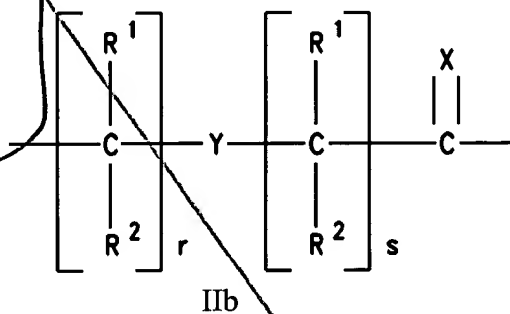
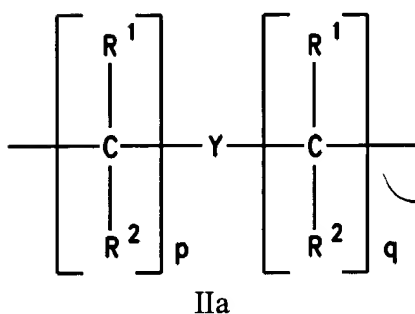
R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and
a is 0 or 1;

A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



where:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, hydroxy-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, alkoxy-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, alkylthio-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is $(\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7)_y$;

D is $(\text{CR}^6\text{R}^7)_z$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkoxy, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and

R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum $y + z$ being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

E independently is COOH , CSOH , SOOH , SO_2OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;

F independently is NHR^3 or NPgR^3 , where Pg is an amino protecting group; or

F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a

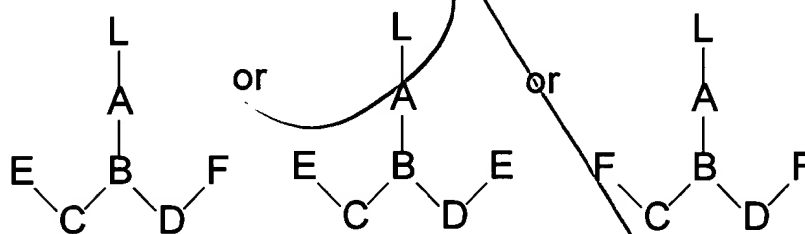
water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein at least one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , and R^7 is a conjugate.

46. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate of formula:



wherein:

L is $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally

occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

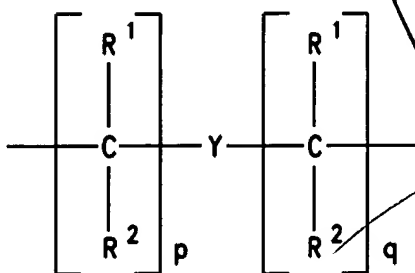
R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

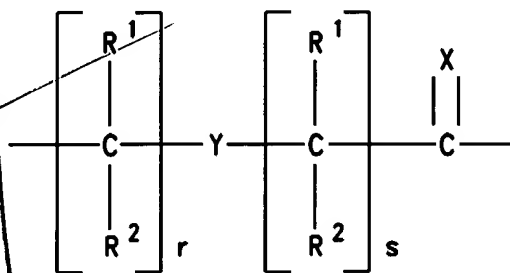
A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

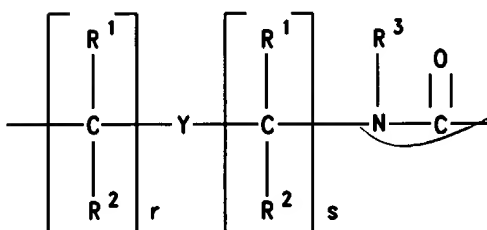
(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



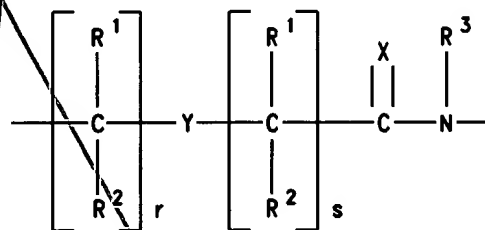
IIa



IIb



IIc



IIId

where:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_2 or $C(CH_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl,

alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is (CR⁶R⁷)_y;

D is (CR⁶R⁷)_z; wherein:

R⁶ and R⁷ independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C₂-C₆) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆) alkoxy, (C₁-C₆) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵ or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

E independently is COOH, CSOH, SOOH, SO₂OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;

F independently is NHR³ or NPgR³, where Pg is an amino protecting group; or

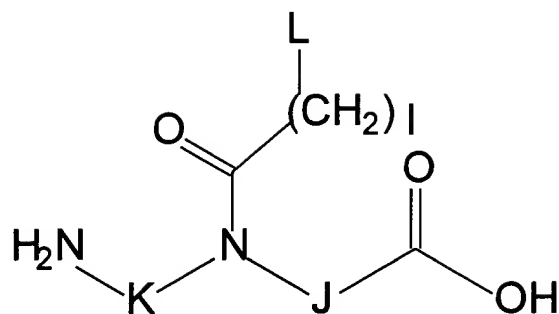
F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or

at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator,

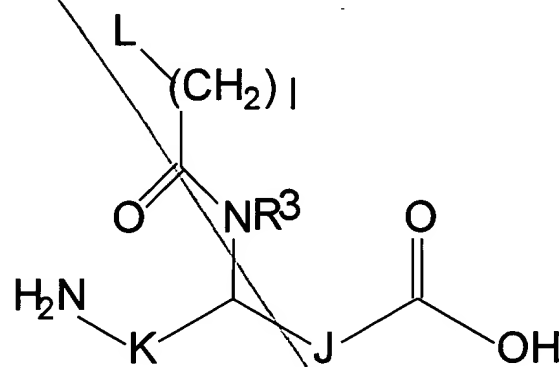
or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and wherein at least one of said groups C or said groups D include a conjugate.

47. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate oligomer comprising a plurality of covalently linked PNA monomers wherein at least one of said PNA monomers has the formula:

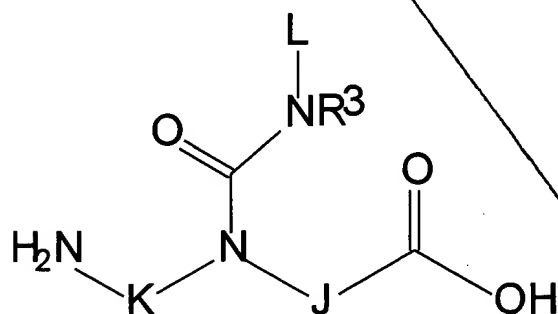
H/S
J II



or formula:



or formula:



wherein:

~~16~~ L is $\text{R}^{12}(\text{R}^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally

occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and
a is 0 or 1;

K is $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

J is $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 are independently hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio- substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum $y + z$ being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

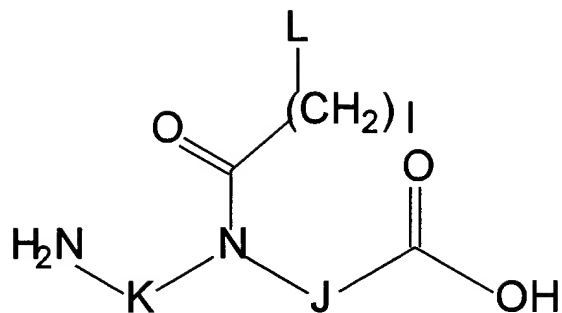
l is an integer from 1 to 5; and

at least one of L and R3 comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

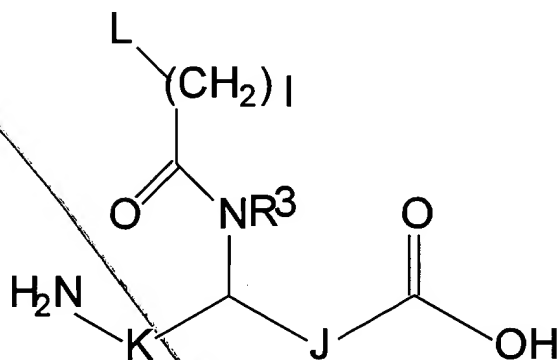
wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein at least one of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , and R^7 is a conjugate.

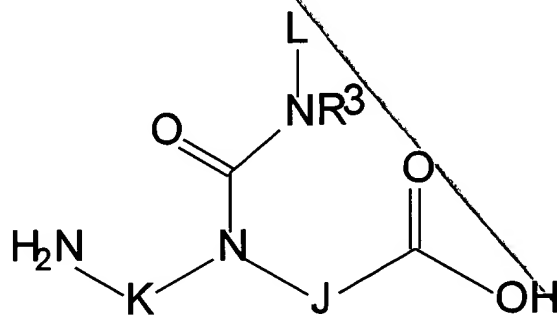
48. (Amended) A peptide nucleic acid conjugate oligomer comprising a plurality of covalently linked PNA monomers wherein at least one of said PNA monomers has the formula:



or formula:



or formula:



wherein:

L is R¹²(R¹³)_a; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and
a is 0 or 1;

K is $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

J is $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 are independently hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio- substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum $y + z$ being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

l is an integer from 1 to 5; and

at least one of L and R3 comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric

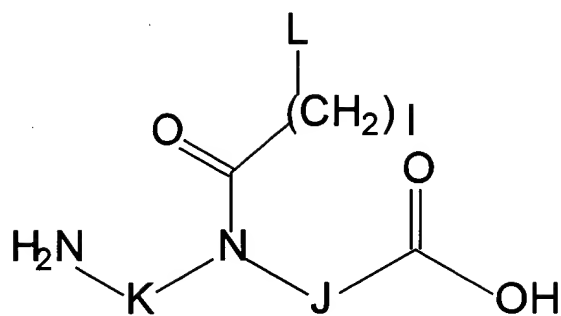
compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

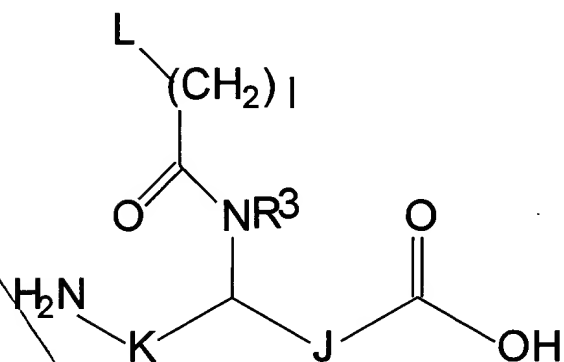
wherein at least one of said group K or said group J includes a conjugate.

49. A peptide nucleic acid conjugate oligomer comprising a plurality of covalently linked PNA monomers wherein at least one of said PNA monomers has the formula:

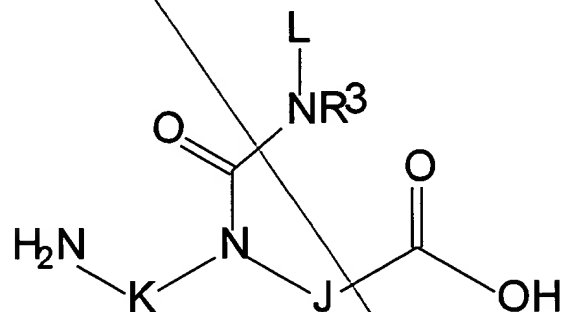
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or formula:



or formula:



wherein:

H6
 L is $\text{R}^{12}(\text{R}^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally

occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and
a is 0 or 1;

K is $(CR^6R^7)_z$;

J is $(CR^6R^7)_y$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 are independently hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino;

R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum $y + z$ being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

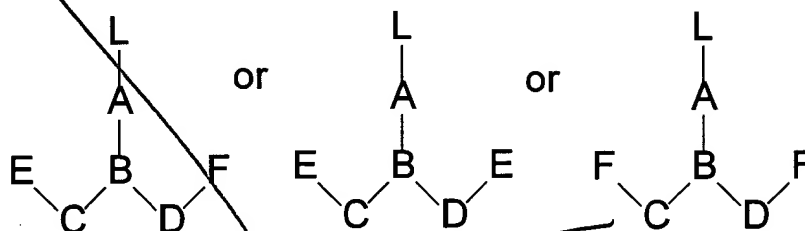
l is an integer from 1 to 5; and

at least one of L and R3 comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers;

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wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety; and

wherein said group R^3 is a conjugate.

50. (Amended) A compound having one of the following formulas:



wherein:

L is $R^{12}(R^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

R^{13} , if present, is a conjugate; and

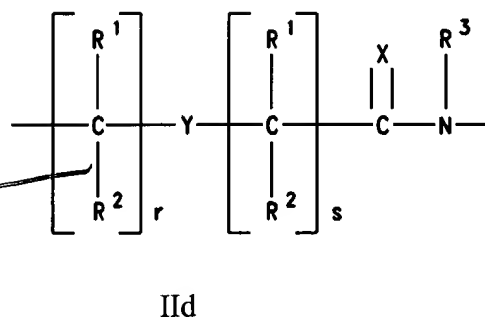
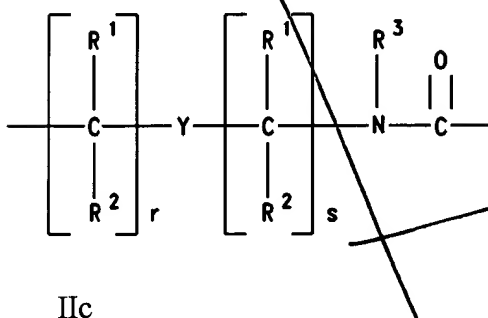
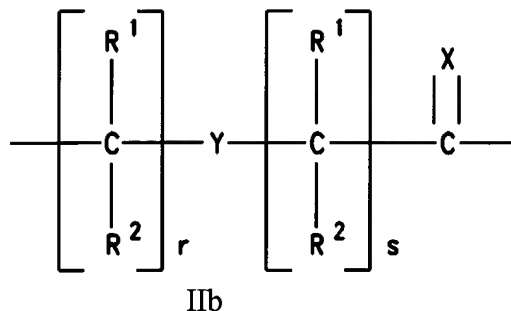
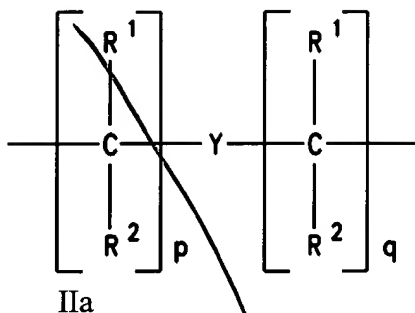
a is 0 or 1;

A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and

B is N or R^3N^+ ; or

(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH_3 ;



where:

X is O, S, Se, NR^3 , CH_3 or $C(CH_3)_2$;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR^4 ;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is $(CR^6R^7)_y$;

D is $(CR^6R^7)_z$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and

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~~SR⁵ or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;~~
~~R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and~~
~~R⁵ is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl;~~
~~each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;~~
~~E independently is COOH, CSOH, SOOH, SO₂OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;~~
~~F independently is NHR³ or NPgR³, where Pg is an amino protecting group;~~
~~or~~
~~F comprises a conjugate selected from a terpene, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, a porphyrin, or an alkylator; or~~
~~at least one of A and L comprises a conjugate selected from a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a metal chelator, a porphyrin, an alkylator, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and~~
~~wherein said conjugate optionally includes a linking moiety.~~

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Concl

New claims 51 and 52 have been added: